

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1080

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, GW, WB, TU, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: BRITISH CALEDONIAN TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS

REF: USBER 1235

1. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITISH CALEDONIAN (BCAL) AND NEW TRAVEL AGENCY HAVA YALLARI HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE REVIEW BY BRITISH EMBASSY AND LONDON AUTHORITIES. ON JUNE 26 ACTING BRITISH CAA CARTER PROVIDED US WITH STRONG UKG ASSURANCES THAT OWNERSHIP OF AIRCRAFT TO BE USED ON THE BERLIN-ISTANBUL PROGRAM WAS INDISPUTABLY BRITISH. WE WERE TOLD BY CARTER THAT THE SITUATION WAS METICULOUSLY INVESTIGATED BY BRITISH CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES, WHO, WHILE RECOGNIZING THE COMMERCIAL PROBLEM OF INTRODUCING A NEW CARRIER INTO THE TURKISH MARKET, CONCLUDED THERE WERE NO OBJECTIVE GROUNDS UPON WHICH TO DENY THE CARRIER APPLICATION. MOREOVER, BRITISH EMBASSY REQUESTED AND RECEIVED FROM BCAL WRITTEN ASSURANCES THAT

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A. HAVA YOLLARI HAS NO CONNECTION WHATSOEVER WITH

TURKISH AIRLINES.

B. THE AIRCRAFT AND CREWS ARE BRITISH.

C. A PRICE OF DM 425 WILL BE CHARGED FOR BERLIN-
ISTANBUL FLIGHTS.

CARTER SAID THAT HIS CLEARANCE AUTHORIZATION TO BCAL
WOULD REFERENCE THE LATTER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT AS
ABOVE, THEREBY SETTING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE
FLIGHTS WOULD BE OPERATED.

2. IN VIEW OF THESE ASSURANCES WE CONCURRED IN GRANTING
CLEARANCE FOR 24 FLIGHTS TO BE OPERATED IN JULY WITH
THE UNDERSTANDING THAT FURTHER CLEARANCES WOULD BE
GRANTED ONLY AFTER ANOTHER REVIEW OF THE SITUATION.
BCAL THEREFORE FLEW ONE PROMOTIONAL FLIGHT ON THE 27TH
WITH A SCHEDULED DEPARTURE FOR ISTANBUL FOR THE EVENING
OF THE SAME DAY, SUBJECT TO TURKISH LANDING AUTHORITY.
WE WERE INFORMED THIS APM, JUNE 27, BY A PAA
OFFICIAL THAT HAVA YOLLARI HAD SOLD ADVANCE TICKETS
FOR PRICES SUBSTANTIAL BELOW DM 425 RATE, AND WITHOUT
REFERENCE TO USUAL CAVEAT SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT
APPROVAL." THE SAME SOURCE TOLD US LATER THAT HE HAD
HEARD FROM A TURKISH CONTACT BRITISH CALEDONIAN WAS
ABOUT TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT IN ANKARA WITH THY
PROVIDING FOR A ROYALTY PAYMENT OF DM 48 PER SEAT AND
A DM 500 DEPOSIT COVERING THE POSSIBILITY OF STRANDED
PASSENGERS. THE EFFECT OF THIS AGREEMENT - IF IN FACT
CONCLUDED - WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE PAA'S, DAN AIR'S,
AND LAKER'S POSITION IN THE MARKET, SINCE THE LATTER
CARRIERS WOULD PROBABLY BE COMPELLED TO SIGN
A SIMILAR AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO RECEIVE LANDING AUTHORITY.

3. WE HAVE TOLD ACTING BRITISH CAA THAT LATEST ALLEGA-
TIONS CONCERNING BCAL'S OPERATION RAISES SERIOUS
QUESTION IN OUR MINDS AS TO WHETHER THE CARRIER IS
PERFORMING IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ITS
CLEARANCE. WE WOULD THEREFORE CONSIDER WITHDRAWING
OUR CONCURRENCE IN THE CLEARANCES FOR THE FLIGHTS
ALREADY APPROVED IN JULY, UNLESS WE RECEIVE BRITISH
ASSURANCES THAT THE TICKETS TO BE SOLD FOR THIS PERIOD
WERE PRICED AT THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED LEVEL.
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MOREOVER, EMB CAA TOLD CARTER QUESTION OF CLEARANCES
BEYOND THE END OF JULY WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE TO BE THE
SUBJECT OF ADDITIONAL CAA CONSIDERATION, GIVEN THE
INFORMATION CITED ABOVE.

4. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A COPY OF A TELEX FROM THE
BRITISH EMBASSY TO BCAL, INDICATING THAT IF PROOF IS
NOT RECEIVED THAT CONDITIONS OF THE CLEARANCES ARE MET

APPROVALS MAY BE REVOKED. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH
REVOCATION OF CLEARANCES COULD PROVE MESSY, WE SEE
LITTLE ALTERNATIVE IF BCAL IS UNABLE TO DEMONSTRATE
THAT IT IS OPERATING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS THE
BRITISH AND OURSELVES AGREED WOULD BE THE BASIS OF OUR
CLEARANCE.
HILLENBRAND

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